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ABSTRACT

Twenty elementary and secondary schools from throughout the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania region were selected from 44 applicant schools to receive grants for Local Action Programs of environmental education. Included in this booklet is a resume of each of these programs. Information specifies program name, school name and address, program leaders, number of students and grade levels, geographic and demographic descriptions of the school, and a synopsis of the program goals and activities. The programs are administered through Project KARE (Knowledgeable Action to Restore our Environment), an ESEA Title III Project. (EB)

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SKETCHES OF LOCAL ACTION PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Conducted by Local Schools
from September, 1972 to June, 1973,
under the auspices of:

Project KARE
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INTRODUCTION

Twenty elementary and secondary schools from throughout the five-county Southeastern Pennsylvania region were selected from among 44 applicant schools to receive grants for Local Action Programs of environmental education. The operating grants of up to $5,000.00 in support of each Local Action Program are being awarded during 1972-73 under federally-funded Project KARE (Knowledgeable Action to Restore our Environment), #71-7155, Section 306, ESEA, Title III.

LOCAL ACTION PROGRAMS (LAPs)

Abandoned Houses	Thomas Edison High School/Philadelphia
Back to Then	Unionville-Chadds Ford Jr. Sr. H. S./Unionville-Chadds Ford
CCC	O. V. Catto School/Philadelphia
CHES	Chester High School/Chester-Upland
DERA	Downingtown Area Secondary Schools/Downingtown
DLUM	Conestoga High School/Tredyffrin-Easttown
EIT	Parkway Program, Delta Unit/Philadelphia
Impact of Mushroom Industry	Avon-Grove High School/Avon-Grove
LIFE	Rolling Hills Elementary School/Council Rock
MERC	Cheltenham High School/Cheltenham
Operation Adoption	Rhodes Middle School/Philadelphia
Operation THETA (Phase II)	Haverford Senior High School/Haverford
PERKSOC	Perkasie Elementary School/Pennridge
Project Clean Sweep	Lehigh Elementary School/Philadelphia
Project LEAP	Northeast High School/Philadelphia
Project SNAP	Eisenhower Senior High School/Norristown
Re-Greening the Wissahickon	Germantown Friends School
R-SCAPE	Roman Catholic High School/Archdiocese
Student Alert	Alternative West High School/Radnor & Lower Merion
Urban-Suburban Water Source Study	Upper Perkiomen Middle School/Upper Perkiomen

LAP Name:	ABANDONED HOUSES
LAP School:	Thomas Edison High School (Philadelphia School District #5) 8th Street and Lehigh Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19032 Mr. Albert Glassman, Principal (BA3-4400)
LAP Leader:	Mrs. Angela E. DuBose, Leader
LAP Students:	Twenty-five (25) students in grades 11 and 12.
Descriptors:	Located in the Model Cities Area of Philadelphia, Thomas Edison High School enrolls 2,000 boys in grades 10-12.
Synopsis:	The students are concerned about the environmental effects, physical, psychological, and sociological, of abandoned houses in the school community. The primary objective is to instill in students, teachers, and community, a total awareness of the devastating effect of these houses. Secondarily, the LAP aims to prevent, reduce, and/or improve the abandoned houses. Emphasis is being placed on the concerns of neighbors near the houses; on the physical dangers to children which the houses present; on the health hazards caused by litter and rat infestation in the houses; and on the menace of gangs and thieves who use the houses for clubhouses and hideouts. Using a multi-media approach, the students are surveying the community for abandoned houses. Data are being evaluated in concert with community agencies. Most importantly, recommendations are being made which call for local control and community action geared to overcome the problems created by abandoned houses.

LAP Name: BACK TO THEN

LAP School: Unionville-Chadds Ford Junior-Senior High School
(Unionville-Chadds Ford School District)
Rte 82
Unionville, Pennsylvania 19375
Mr. Garland H. Hoover, Principal
(347-2300)

LAP Leaders: Mr. Kenneth Kane, LAP Leader
Mr. Carl Fitzcharles, Co-Leader

LAP Students: The target student group consists of 25 students in grades 7 through 11. Approximately 200 students in grades 3-6 are also involved.

Descriptors: Unionville-Chadds Ford Junior-Senior High School serves an area in Chester County which is largely rural. A total of 1120 students are enrolled in grades 7 through 12.

Synopsis: The students believe that a better understanding of man's present destruction of his environment might be achieved if past environments are studied in relation to the present. LAP objectives are twofold: To become aware of the historical and ecological facets of the community; and to restore a small study area to resemble its primitive status and preserve this area for study by future students. Initial activities included library and field research concerning the flora, fauna, and earlier civilizations which lived in the study area and surrounding region. During the research, students have the opportunity to observe conditions as they are now; to hypothesize what conditions persisted in the past; and to apply what is being learned during the reconstruction effort. In this process, the immediate environment is being improved through intense conservation efforts while students and community attain a better understanding of how they personally effect their environments.

LAP Name: CCC- Catto Community Campus

LAP School: O. V. Catto School
(Philadelphia School District #1)
42nd and Ludlow Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104
Mr. Rocco Gigante, Jr., Principal
(BA2-1460)

LAP Leaders: Mr. Clarence Robertson, LAP Leader
Mr. Dean T. Cummings, Co-Leader

LAP Students: All 314 students of the school, grades 5 through 11.

Descriptors: O.V. Catto School is a Remedial Disciplinary Center for boys serving several school districts of Philadelphia. It is located in a densely urban community.

Synopsis: Community deterioration is the chief environmental concern of the students. This is seen in the form of abandoned houses, deserted cars, unsanitary living conditions, and community apathy. These conditions endanger the health and safety of youngsters, mars the potential beauty of the area, and generates a negative attitude toward clean-up efforts. Special focus for the students is a vacant lot adjacent to the school. The lot is a haven for refuse, junk, and garbage. The students are removing the debris, planting trees and shrubs, and providing minimal recreational facilities on the lot. Beyond merely enhancing the character of the neighborhood, the restoration of the lot by the students has generated community awareness of the overall decay of the neighborhood. In this way, the LAP is serving as a viable model for future community projects.

LAP Name:	CHES - Chester High Environmental Study
LAP School:	Chester High School (Chester-Upland School District) 9th and Fulton Streets Chester, Pennsylvania 19013 Mr. William Polk, Jr., Principal (TR4-8441)
LAP Leaders:	Mrs. Ernestine Aldridge, LAP Leader Mr. Lloyd Lisk, Co-Leader
LAP Students:	A group of 25 selected students from the 12th grade.
Descriptors:	A public school, Chester High School draws 2,204 students, grades 10-12, from both urban and suburban communities. Chester City is located in Delaware County near the Delaware River.
Synopsis:	The prime environmental concern of LAP students is the persistence of conditions in the area which contributed to severe flooding of Chester Creek in 1971. A 12-block area was inundated resulting in severe damage to buildings and property. Students began by surveying the area to determine possible causes of the flooding. Attempts were made to define possible flood control measures which might be undertaken by the community. Ground is being reclaimed and trees are being planted. The Chester Creek is being thoroughly studied regarding water flow, silting, chemical and biological pollution, watershed decay, and recreational use. By informing the community of their findings, the students hope to encourage residents to assist local and state agencies presently working to prevent recurrences of flooding in the area.

LAP Name: DERA - Development of an Environmental Research Area

LAP Schools: Downingtown Area Secondary Schools
(Downingtown Area School District)
450 Manor Avenue
Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335
(269-4400)

LAP Leader: Miss Edith Hille, LAP Leader

LAP Students: A total of 175 students from grades 8 and 10-12.

Descriptors: The LAP students attend two public junior high schools and the senior high school which are located in a suburban-rural area of northern Chester County. Total enrollment for the schools is 2,938 students, grades 7-12.

Synopsis: Students are cooperating with the officials of Downingtown Boro to maintain a series of clay pit lakes as a preserved aquatic-wooded environment. Their objectives are to restore the area to its primal state and to utilize the ecosystems of the lake area for extensive environmental studies. At first, students cleaned out the 21 acres of woodland and the three small lakes. An outdoor environmental research area is being established, and surveys are being completed regarding the variety of habitats present and how they inter-relate. Diversity and density studies are being performed. Water quality is tested. Pond and woodland succession is analyzed. Eventually, in conjunction with borough planning, the area will be maintained as a wildlife refuge and natural habitat open to residents for study and recreation.

LAP Name: DLUM - Development of a Land-Use Model for Predicting the Environmental Impact of Future Urbanization on Valley Creek

LAP School: Conestoga Senior High School
(Tredyffrin-Easttown School District)
Conestoga and Irish Roads
Berwyn, Pennsylvania 19312
Dr. John Rittenmeyer, Principal
(NI4-1440)

LAP Leader: Dr. Ralph D. Heister, Jr., LAP Leader

LAP Students: A total of 485 students drawn from grades 11-12, 10, 8, 3-6, and 1-2 in several schools.

Descriptors: Located in a suburban area of Chester County, Conestoga Senior High School enrolls 1,900 students in grades 10 through 12.

Synopsis: Student environmental concerns focus on the urbanization of the Valley Creek drainage basin which presently functions as a litmus of a very environmentally volatile watershed. The major objective of the LAP is to predict the net effect of this urbanization process. Additionally, LAP activities aim to develop environmental awareness, to measure the environmental sensitivity of the ciitizenry, and to prepare a land-use model for the Valley Creek Watershed. Students are establishing base-line data for the chemical, physical, and biological conditions of the Creek. Personal contact is being made with all industries using the Creek for disposal of effluents in order to determine the effect of industry on water quality. The effect of agricultural and residental sectors is also being measured. The recreational value of the watershed is also under consideration. Ultimately, through model simulation, it is anticipated that the students and community might predict the effects of urbanization of the area and thereby enable them to make prudent decisions regarding planned future development.

LAP Name: EIT - Environmentalists in Training

LAP School: Parkway Program, Delta Unit
(Philadelphia School District #6)
6008 Wayne Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144
Miss Barbara Smith, Head
(VI3-6133)

LAP Leader: Mr. Will Jefferson, Lap Leader

LAP Students: Forty (40) students, ages 14 through 18, from Philadelphia School District #6 and suburban schools.

Descriptors: The Parkway Program, an innovative, non-graded project, draws a total of 800 students from all eight public school districts in the Philadelphia Intermediate Unit and contiguous suburban school systems.

Synopsis: The principal concern of the students is the lack of community awareness regarding the existence of environmental problems in their neighborhoods. The purpose, then, is to train the students to become agents for generating environmental awareness. The LAP students are learning to define environmental deterioration in their neighborhoods, developing an understanding of problem-solving procedures, and achieving a motivation to act correctively. A special feature of the LAP are the Neighborhood Action Programs or NAPs wherein students initiate environmental problem-solving projects of their own design and see them through to conclusion. The education staffs of the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center are cooperating to train the students, conduct classroom discussions, and lead field exercises.

LAP Name: The Impact of the Mushroom Industry on the Physical and Social Environment of Southern Chester County, Pennsylvania

LAP School: Avon-Grove High School
(Avon-Grove School District)
20 Prospect Avenue
West Grove, Pennsylvania 19390
Mr. O. Edward Hamilton, Principal
(869-2446)

LAP Leaders: Mr. William Anderson, LAP Leader
Mr. Ronald Paterson, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 130 students from grades 8 and 10-12 inclusive.

Descriptors: Avon-Grove School District is located in rural southern Chester County. The high school enrolls 735 students in grades 9 through 12.

Synopsis: The effect of the mushroom industry on life in southern Chester County provides the chief environmental concern. Of special interest to the students are air and water quality, insect pest problems, and economic and social impact of the industry. Using scientific sampling and analytic techniques, the students are measuring the influence of the mushroom industry on local stream quality, on air quality, and on the demographic characteristics of the region. The local labor market is being examined as well. Special attention is being given to the role played by the Puerto Rican worker, the effect of national tariffs on the price of mushrooms, and the devastation of mushrooms attributed to phorid flies.

LAP Name: LIFE - Let's Improve our Future Environment

LAP School: Rolling Hills Elementary School
(Council Rock School District)
340 Middle Holland Road
Holland, Pennsylvania 18966
Mr. C. David Miller, Principal
(355-9696)

LAP Leader: Miss Ann Watson Farr, Leader

LAP Students: The core group consists of 40-45 students in grade 5.

Descriptors: An open-spaced and non-graded public elementary school with 550 students normally in grades K through 5, Rolling Hills Elementary School is located in a mostly rural/suburban area of middle Bucks County.

Synopsis: The prime environmental concern of the students is the pollution of a local stream known as Mill Creek. LAP objectives are to identify the sources of this pollution and to take appropriate measures to restore the stream to its natural state. Initial activities focused on a basic study of stream environments. Life cycles are being identified, while geologic and man-made features of the area are being mapped. Chemical and biological tests will be made to determine the nature and degree of pollution. A smaller polluted stream adjacent to school property is being used to introduce students to water studies and will serve as a comparison with Mill Creek. A complete schedule of tests will be repeated four times during the year in order that students will be able to correlate their findings with seasonal conditions. A special feature of the LAP is the sharing of facilities and learning experiences with elementary students from St. Martin of Tours School in Northeast Philadelphia.

LAP Name: MERC - Model Environmental Resource Center

LAP School: Cheltenham High School
(Cheltenham Township School District)
Rice's Mill and Carlton Roads
Wyncote, Pennsylvania 19095
Mr. Joseph Guanari, Principal
(ME5-3800)

LAP Leaders: Mr. John K. Eshleman, LAP Leader
Mr. Steven A. Gest, Co-Leader
Mr. Steven M. Goldstein, Co-Leader

LAP Students: The LAP will provide learning activities for all 7,000 students of the school district.

Descriptors: Cheltenham Township School District is located in a densely-populated area of eastern Montgomery County which is contiguous with the City of Philadelphia.

Synopsis: The environmental concern of the LAP is the recognition that a local agency does not exist in the local community whose primary focus is to monitor environmental well-being. Accordingly, the chief objective is to establish a community enviornmental resource center which will serve as a model for other communities. Initial activities include the collection and maintenance of a repository of environmental information, and the setting-up of a network of air, land, water, and noise monitoring stations. Special emphasis is on conducting educational programs in the community and in the schools. As the MERC becomes operational, capacities are being developed to recognize and analyze environmental problems, and to determine possible solutions through the use of problem simulation, role playing, model building, and social research.

LAP Name: OPERATION ADOPTION

LAP School: Rhodes Middle School
(Philadelphia School District #4)
29th and Clearfield Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19032
Mr. Jacob Hoffman, Principal
(221-0850)

LAP Leaders: Mr. Edward L. Stranix, LAP Leader
Mrs. Edith Gladden, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 105 students in grades 7 and 8.

Descriptors: Rhodes Middle School is a public, non-graded school located in an inner-city region of Philadelphia. Students are drawn from the Model Cities area.

Synopsis: Graffiti, litter, uncollected trash, deserted houses, and abandoned cars constitute the chief enviornmental concerns of the LAP. Student Task Forces were organized to attack each problem as encountered in a selected target area along Clementine Street which is near the school. First, the students surveyed the area using a multi-media approach. All evidence of deterioration was recorded on Super 8 film by the students. Descriptions of each problem are being carefully documented including details regarding the clean-up or renovative activities which might be necessary. With the assistance of various community organizations and volunteers, considerable painting, cleaning, and restoring is being done. Three abandoned houses were selected, purchased, renovated, and sold. Other targets will be "adopted" for restoration by the students during the year. A special feature of the LAP is the inter-change of students with a suburban school who will assist the LAP students in studying the "adopted" streets and in controlling the deterioration of the neighborhoods. A 16mm film will be made covering the activities of the LAP.

LAP Name: OPERATION THETA (Phase II)

LAP School: Haverford Senior High School
(Haverford Township School District)
Mill Road and Leedom Avenue
Havertown, Pennsylvania 19083
Dr. Walter J. Hall, Jr., Principal
(HI6-4570)

LAP Leader: Mr. Harry Ernst, LAP Leader

LAP Students: 125 students in grade 12.

Descriptors: Haverford Senior High School is a public school enrolling approximately 2,300 students drawn from a suburban community of Delaware County proximate to Philadelphia.

Synopsis: Air, land, and water pollution compose the prime environmental concerns of OPERATION THETA. A 30-acre tract, the Allgates Estate, is the principal site for LAP activities. Learning functions are interdisciplinary with all students engaged in a common core of learnings embracing English, Social Studies, and Environmental Science. Specific activities include detection of air contaminants, monitoring of the Darby Creek, and research concerning pesticides and herbicides. Additionally, the natural areas of the tract are being conserved and maintained as study sites, nature trails, outdoor classrooms, an arboretum, and a research center.

LAP Name: PERKSOC - Perkasie School Outdoor Classroom

LAP School: Perkasie Elementary School
(Pennridge School District)
601 North Seventh Street
Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944
Mr. Richard Freeman, Principal
(257-5011)

LAP Leaders: Mr. Richard Freeman, LAP Leader
Mrs. Margaret Hutchison, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 130 students: 30 from grade 4, 25 from grade 6, and 50 from grade 8 of Central Junior High School; and 25 from the Upper Bucks Vocational Technical School.

Descriptors: Perkasie Elementary School, a public school with 455 students in grades K-4, serves a largely rural area of Upper Bucks County.

Synopsis: Students of Perkasie Elementary School are concerned that a small naturally-retained tract adjacent to the school has decayed environmentally. Erosion has been severe and the tree cover has deteriorated. The LAP objective is to restore the tract for use by the students as an outdoor classroom. Initial efforts were directed to controlling the erosion by means of check-dams and specially selected plantings. A study pond is being constructed and water and soil testing carried out. Working with the students, scouting groups are preparing wooden markers for a mini-nature trail, mapping the study area, and identifying trees and shrubs. A holding nursery for stocking the outdoor classroom has been restocked. Eventually, each class of the school will engage in specially-devised activites using the various facets of the outdoor classroom.

LAP Name: PROJECT CLEAN SWEEP

LAP School: Lehigh Public School
(Philadelphia School District #4)
32nd Street and Lehigh Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132
Mr. Daniel McGinley, Principal
(221-6363)

LAP Leaders: Mr. James Morley, LAP Leader
Mr. Frederick Walton, Co-Leader

LAP Students: 90 students from grade 4.

Descriptors: Lehigh Public School, grades K-4, enrolls 950 students from the Model Cities Area of North Philadelphia.

Synopsis: The LAP students are especially concerned about the extent of decay experienced by the neighborhood served by the school. A ten-block area was selected to receive concerted attention. Initially, a litter survey was conducted. Vacant lots near the school were cleaned-up by the students. A glass recycling program was instituted with collection cans strategically placed in the neighborhood. Of particular interest, has been the efforts of the students to obtain the total involvement of the community in keeping the community free of unwanted litter, trash, and graffiti. Photographic slides were taken by the students who made special presentations in the community to arouse on-going support for "PROJECT CLEAN SWEEP".

LAP Name:	PROJECT LEAP - Local Environmental Action Programs
LAP School:	Northeast High School (Philadelphia School District #8) Cottman and Algon Avenues Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19111 (PI2-0110)
LAP Leaders:	Mrs. Helen Ericson, LAP Leader
LAP Students:	A total of 150 students from grades 10-12
Descriptors:	Located in the northeastern sector of Philadelphia, Northeast High School serves 3,663 students in grades 10-12.
Synopsis:	The environmental concerns of the LAP relate directly to the general lack of environmental awareness of our citizenry. The objectives of the program are threefold: (1) to inspire sustained environmental sensitivity and understanding, (2) to develop the realization that individuals might be agents of change in their communities, and (3) to investigate the vocations involved in the maintenance of environmental quality. These objectives are being pursued in three distinct eco-projects. One group of students is performing an extensive study of the Pennypack Creek and Park. Their activities include evaluation of governmental roles, and testing of soil and water for pollution. A second group of students is examining the various factors relating to solid waste problems. The remaining students are providing environmental education for elementary students in nearby schools. All learning activities provide individualized projects for the students who are directly involved in environmental problem-solving.

LAP Name: PROJECT SNAP - Student Natural Area Project

LAP School: Eisenhower High School
(Norristown Area School District)
Markley Street and Coolidge Blvd.
Norristown, Pennsylvania 19401
Mr. William Snyder, Principal
(539-1000)

LAP Leaders: Mr. Thomas J. Fennessey, Jr., LAP Leader

LAP Students: The core student group consists of 30 students in grades 10-12. Other LAP students include 90 students in grades 7-9 and 400 students in grades K-6.

Descriptors: Norristown Area School District is a public school system in Montgomery County composed of both urban and suburban areas. Eisenhower High School enrolls approximately 2,100 students in grades 10-12.

Synopsis: The chief environmental concern of PROJECT SNAP is the failure to utilize for educational purposes a tract of land presently owned by the school district. Indeed, the natural area has been permitted to be heavily damaged by construction of a new high school. The students aim to restore the site, approximately 8 acres in all, to its natural state and to establish a learning program utilizing the site and the nearby Stoney Creek for environmental studies. Specified activities include water testing, pond construction, erosion studies, and tree planting. A field study guide is being prepared while trails and study areas are being mapped. As work progresses, lessons using the nature area will be videotaped for presentation to students in other schools in Norristown Area School District.

LAP Name: RE-GREENING THE WISSAHICKON

LAP School: Germantown Friends School
31 West Coulter Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144
Mr. Frederick C. Calder, Headmaster
(438-5714)

LAP Leaders: Mr. Herbert Bassow, Co-Leader
Mr. Peter M. Renner, Co-Leader

LAP Students: The core group of students totals 28 in grade 12. An additional 25 students in grades 1-3 are involved.

Descriptors: Germantown Friends School, located in Philadelphia, is a private school, grades K-12, and enrolls approximately 800 students.

Synopsis: The objective of the LAP is to re-create a quality environment in the Wissahickon Creek section of Philadelphia's Fairmount Park for recreation and environmental education of the general public. Presently, the area is not being used adequately for educational purposes which emphasize environmental studies. Preceded by a feasibility study, the students are developing a program plan for establishing an environmental studies center. Attempts are also being made to discover when in the past the environment of the area was of an acceptable quality, and what investments must now be made to re-create that environment. Emphasis is being placed on technological requirements, institutional involvements, and human resources. Special attention has been devoted to attaining public support for the LAP activities through public-speaking engagements, personal contacts, and interview sessions.

LAP Name: R-SCAPE -- Roman Students Concerned About Preserving the Environment

LAP School: Roman Catholic High School
(Archdiocese of Philadelphia)
Broad and Vine Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Rev. Charles V. Gallen, Principal
(MA7-1270)

LAP Leaders: Rev. William J. Paul, LAP Leader
Mr. Gerald Gibbons, Co-Leader

LAP Students: The core group of students consists of 50 students, grades 9-12. Also, 50 fourth-grade students from St. Lucy's School, 50 fourth-grade students from St. Mary's School, and 10 students grades 9-12 from Mercy Technical School are involved.

Descriptors: Roman Catholic High School is conducted by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and enrolls approximately 940 male students in grades 9-12. It is located in inner-city Philadelphia.

Synopsis: The principal environmental concern of the LAP is to prevent further deterioration of the Manayunk Canal and to plan the restoration of a selected area of the canal as a recreational area. Students have three major objectives: (1) to discover the source of fecal contamination of the canal, (2) to bioassay the canal, and (3) to conduct a role simulation aimed at examining the canal as a future major recreational asset. Scientific studies by the students currently underway include blue-green algae analysis, Petersen Population Survey, bottom studies, and transects. Students in two parochial grade schools are being taught chemical-analysis techniques and the implications of fecal contamination of water. In preparation for the role simulation, the LAP students are researching the social and geological history of the Manayunk Canal and Flat Rock Dam.

LAP Name: STUDENT ALERT

LAP School: Alternative West High School
(Radnor Twp. School District and
Lower Merion School District)
Main Line Reform Temple
410 Montgomery Avenue
Wynnewood, Pennsylvania 19006
Mrs. Gisha Berkowitz, Director
(MI2-6062)

LAP Leaders: Mrs. Lois Erlichman, LAP Leader
Mrs. Leslie Friedman, Co-Leader

LAP Students: The core students total 140 from Alternative West High School. An additional 230 students from Cynwyd Elementary School are involved.

Descriptors: Alternative West High School draws students from both Radnor High School and the high schools of Lower Merion as well as students from the School District of Philadelphia. It is an innovative public school with experimental learning programs. Total enrollment is 140 students in grades 10 through 12.

Synopsis: The students of the LAP are concerned that facilities are not presently available for use in effective environmental studies. They proposed to enlarge the facilities of the Eco Valley Nature Center in Belmont Hills and provide on-going environmental studies programs at the site. The center is being staffed primarily by students who schedule and conduct tours, train student environmentalists, and protect the habitats and ecosystems of the area. The facilities are being made available to the students of Rhodes Middle School which is located in a densely-populated area of Philadelphia. Special features of the program include a squad of 7 high school guides who are being trained to teach elementary students who visit the "Valley". An organic garden center and greenhouse are also being created by the Alternative West Organic Gardening class.

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LAP Name: URRAN-SUBURBAN WATER SOURCE STUDY

LAP School: Upper Perkiomen Middle School
(Upper Perkiomen School District)
Jefferson Street
East Greenville, Pennsylvania 18041
Mr. Nelson Weber, Principal
(679-9551)

LAP Leaders: Mr. Dallas Heckman, LAP Leader
Mr. George Stefaniak, Co-Leader

LAP Students: A total of 174 students in grades 6 and 7.

Descriptors: Upper Perkiomen Middle School enrolls 950 students in grades 5-8. It is a public school serving a rural area of northern Montgomery County.

Synopsis: The prime environmental concern of the students is the quality water flowing from the Perkiomen Creek into the reservoir of the Philadelphia Suburban Water Company. Secondarily, they wish to see a vacant lot on school property better utilized for nature studies. A thorough water studies investigation was planned. Students are analyzing the creek for chemical and biological content, and performing population and transect studies. Special emphasis is being placed on land-usage since high density industry and housing has been planned along the watershed. Meanwhile, the vacant lot is being converted into an outdoor laboratory for use by the various student groups of the middle school.